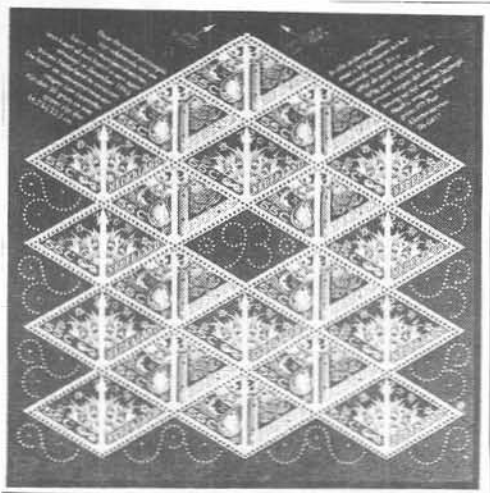
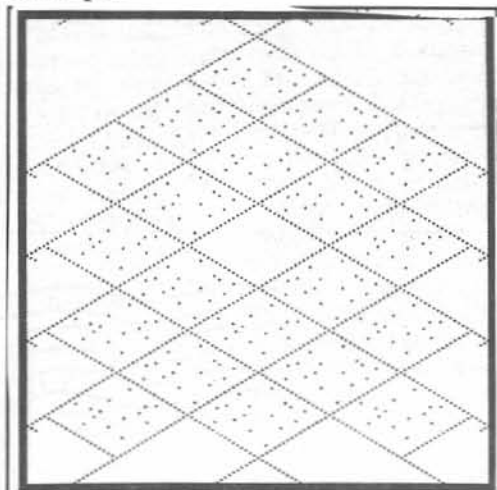


A New Class Of Perfin

Bob Schwerdt (#505)



Several sources have brought to the collector's attention a peculiar punch in the Netherlands' 1993 holiday sheet. Twenty diamond shaped stamps in two patterns are arranged in the shape of a Christmas tree with a "93" label in the center. All twenty stamps are internally perforated with two different punch patterns: one using 14 holes, the other 16 holes. The pattern of holes consists of two, more or less, random arrangements meant to resemble snowflakes after being affixed to white envelopes.



Member Marty O'Grady (#2343) of San Lorenzo, CA, while soaking some stamps from his Christmas correspondence, noticed these holes and brought them to my attention. The holes are very tiny and could easily go unnoticed. Thanks to Marty's follow through with his inquiry, the facts became clear and were published in the *ANSP Newsletter* of January, 1994, the *Netherlands Philatelist of California Newsletter* of February, 1994,

and *Linn's Stamp News* on February 28, 1994.

I believe that we should call this new type a "MOG" in honor of Marty since his persistence uncovered the truth about these stamps.

Though the punching was done by the Netherlands PTT and sheets could not be purchased without the snowflake holes, these "perfins" are really not classified as officials. At best they are curiosities, but holes of any sort catch the interest of perfin collectors.

No doubt, we shall see a host of these MOGs in the future. Think of the possibilities. Dark haired portraits with holes perforated to show dandruff. A long set of big-tailed birds with holes to show the proverbial salt. An artist's still life stamp depicting donuts with holes to show the powdered sugar. Of course, the possibilities are predicated on the use of white envelopes. But think of the ultimate, a common issue of the world community issuing a flesh-toned stamp with holes and affixed to red envelopes for the purpose of eradicating measles! Come to think of it, the entire envelope need not be red -- just a red square in the corner where this stamp would be placed. The USPS might even want to consider this idea as a semi-postal issue to raise funds for medical research.

Perhaps you are thinking that I have come down with a bad case of cabin fever from 15 eastern snow falls this season.. You are probably right! Snow flakes so not impress me any more, but I still like the term MOG.